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Newsletter

Number 01

5 February 2016



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz

Welcome to the 2016 school year. A special welcome to our new families, to our international students, and to Mr Le Breton (new teacher in room 12) and Mr Dornbusch (new teacher aide junior school).

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website.

Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy, Brenda Sinclair and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

.. to Clive Adams for the HUGE improvement to the parking areas adjoining Matarau Road.

People of the week

.. to those parents & grandparents who made our 2015 prize giving so special and to all of those children who were called to the stage.

... children for a great start to 2016 ... great attitude and a really positive buzz around the school.

Term dates 2016

Term 1	2 February to 15 April
Term 2	2 May to 8 July
Term 3	25 July to 23 September
Term 4	10 October to 15 December (tentative)

Term calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

9 Feb	Keeping Ourselves Safe programme begins
9 Feb	First meeting of BoT for 2016
11 Feb	Cricket coaching starts
15 Feb	Swimming trials
22/23 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
25 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
4 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
8 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
10 March	Junior Swimming Sports (years 1 to 3)
17 March	Year 7 and 8 vaccinations
21-24 March	Year 5 and 6 camp to Russell
22 March	Middle School Summer Sports Tournament (year 4 only)
4 April	Hockey coaching sessions start
5 April	Mighty Maui Puppet Show
14 April	Snow White Show
15 April	Final day for term 1

Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Education).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

The Board is grateful for payment of school contributions and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, improve access to digital devices, employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement or quarterly.

The trips and events fee is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

Sunhats

A reminder that school navy blue bucket sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

Keeping Ourselves Safe Unit

This unit gets under way next week and runs for three weeks under the guidance of Police Education Officer Toni Bean. Should you have questions as this unit progresses please feel free to contact the school or Toni.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 22 and 23 February - **online booking will open shortly (more to follow).**

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Learning Support Programme

If your child is selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's or Mrs Gunson's support programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

Request from our Librarian

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

Korean language Lessons

Last year quite a number of parents indicated that they were keen for their children to participate in Korean language lessons this year. We are pleased to advise that the Korean Consulate has approved our funding application. Lessons will take place each Tuesday (starting 1 March) from 11:00 AM in blocks of around 30-40 minutes (depending on concentration spans). Children will be in small groups with similar aged children. Parents who indicated interest will receive a letter next week requesting authorisation for withdrawal from regular class. **Other interested parents are asked to contact Kevin early next week (phone or email .. principal@matarau.school.nz) so we can add you to our list.** Senior students will have the option of Korean lessons in the afternoons as part of their wider options programme.

Bus Times

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 22 and 23 February due to parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 12, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the newly designated drop off zone. Please do not park in the zone and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

Term Headlice Inspection

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. Will only take about an hour from 9am - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **15 February** please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.

Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your involvement.

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2016 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2016. No fence jumping please.

Guitar Lessons

If interested in your child learning guitar after school, please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

Friday Lunches

An order form is attached. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 15 minutes in the morning and/or 10 minutes around midday to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available down the track or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. **although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week.** Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

Year 5 & 6 Camp

Initial camp parent meeting will be held in the staffroom at 7pm on Wednesday 17th February. A reminder notice will be sent home closer to the day. Permission slips were sent home earlier this week and were due back at the office today.

Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

School contribution / ipads etc ... Year 4 to 8 students only

As in 2015 the board is suggesting a discounted school contribution **in the event that parents are providing their children with their own (take home) digital devices**. The contribution and fees request from was sent home yesterday. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. Circumstances and world views differ. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. As the year unfolds we intend to provide you with information on how digital technologies are being used to add value to learning without "throwing the baby out with the bathwater". We are also well aware of the need to limit time spent in front of devices and we are monitoring this as we move forward. We will set a date shortly to assist parents with setting up of devices, to review safety and security matters, and to talk about some of the amazing apps we are using to accelerate learning. So watch this space.

Have your residential / contact details changed?

... if so please let Helen know.

If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you. In zone children generate more funding .. which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted in through the Out of Zone process initially and you have moved into our school zone since then.

Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... we continue our focus on writing, take personalised learning the next step, have some special new initiatives for learners needing support, a greater focus on physical fitness, te reo lessons, optional Korean language lessons, a senior options programme (year 7 and 8) ... including Spanish, Korean, science, computer coding, sports science and, of course, the Cambridge lower secondary programme. More to follow over the next few weeks. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

I do have to say thank you to teachers for preparing so thoroughly for the year ahead. Your rooms look great. Thank you for being so conscientious.

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



School Lunches



Mondays - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

Wednesdays - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

Fridays - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar), butter chicken or mince & cheese wrap and a Fruit

Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 1.

Community Notices

Hikurangi junior rugby registration day - Sunday 21 February 2016, 10am – 12pm
Hikurangi Clubrooms. Come on down and sign up to play rugby this season. Contact Kasey Hindrup on 021 542 426 for more details.

Making a Scene Drama and Voice Academy now has more classes over more days and is offering tuition in the following areas Drama, Musical Theatre and Communication classes From Monday -Thursday. Tuition is open to beginners and experienced students age from 7-18, visit the website to choose a class to suit your needs. www.makingascene.co.nz or ph 021 172 3568

Twilight VBall series on Tuesday evenings at 6.00pm at Whg Netball Courts, Kensington. Start date is Tuesday 16 February until Tuesday 8 March – there will be NO cancellations games played in all weather – closing date for entries Wednesday 10 February 2016. More info Ph (09) 4371950 or whangareinetball@xtra.co.nz

Hockey Northland, pre season development camp with Shay Neal, U13 (Year 7&8) Development Camp, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February 2016 8.30am - 3.00pm daily \$40.00 per child (for both days) – brad@northlandhockey.org.nz

Active Attitude offers after school gymnastics tuition for Term 1 now. Please contact us on 9454876 or email admin@activeattitude.co.nz for further information.

SWEETCORN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Sweetcorn will still be available next week. I will be taking txt or phone orders and you can pay on pick up. Remember **100%** of the money goes back to the whole school.
Thank you for your support so far.
Jenny Wiegersma 021729536

